

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAMASC 01552 201624Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00  
INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03  
NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 SSM-03 ACDA-12 IO-13  
/076 W

-----062426 201628Z /53

O 201547Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7282  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 1552

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PEPR, EG, SY  
SUBJ: ASSAD TALKS OF RECONCILIATION WITH EGYPT

1. ON THREE OCCASIONS IN PAST TWO WEEKS PRESIDENT AL-  
ASSAD HAS SPOKEN OF RECONCILIATION WITH EGYPT. ON MARCH 11

HE TOLD JAMES RESTON "IT WILL NOT BE LONG BEFORE IT IS  
CLEAR  
THAT SADAT'S APPROACH TO THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS HAS FAILED AND  
THIS THE CARTER-BEGIN MEETING IN WASHINGTON WILL NOT BREAK THE  
STALEMATE. TH WILL BE IMPORTANT TO GET THE ARAB  
STATES TOGETHER AGAIN TO PREPARE ANOTHER APPROACH TO ISRAEL.  
THEN ON MARCH 17 HE REPORTEDLY ADDRESSED THE REGIONAL COMMAND  
REFERRING POSITIVELY TO PRESIDENT SADAT (DAO CABLE DAMASCUS 1520)  
FINALLY, ON MARCH 18 ASSAD TOLD ARNAUD DE BORCHGRAVE: "PRESIDENT  
SADAT SAYS HE IS NOT PLAYED OUT YET, SO WE WILL  
HAVE TO WAIT A LITTLE WHILE LONGER. THEN THE TIME WILL ONCE  
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AGAIN BE PROPITIOUS TO BRING ABOUT A RAPPROCHEMENT BETWEEN  
THE ARAB CONFRONTATION STATES ON A PLATFORM OF GENUINE  
PEACE, NOT THE ARTIFICIAL PATCHWORK SADAT SEEMS INTERESTED  
IN."

2. THE FOLLOWING DAY ASSAD'S PRESS SECRETARY, ON PRESIDENT'S  
INSTRUCTION ASKED DE BORCHGRAVE TO DELETE THIS STATEMENT

FROM TEXT OF HIS ARTICLE, WE ASSUME THIS WAS DUE TO FACT THAT  
STEADFASTNESS FRONT IS CURRENTLY MEETING IN DAMASCUS  
AND PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT WOULD BE TAKEN AS GRATUITOUS  
AFFRONT. WE GATHER FROM A LOCAL REPORTER THAT ONE REASON  
ASSAD WAS SO ANGRY ABOUT PLO TERRORIST ATTACK IN ISRAEL IS  
THAT IT MADE A BEGIN CONFRONTATION WITH PRESIDENT CARTER  
UNLIKELY ON ISSUE OF WEST BANK/GAZA AND PALESTINIAN  
REPRESENTATION. BEGIN  
HAD HAD BEEN COUNTING ON THIS CONFRONTATION  
TO BRING SADAT INITIATMLE TO END ON TERMS CONDUCIVE TO FOSTER-  
INF ARAB SOLIDARITY.  
MURPHY

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PEACE PLANS, POLITICAL LEADERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 20 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978DAMASC01552  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780122-0997  
**Format:** TEL  
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**Message ID:** 0c53f2c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 22 jun 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3272083  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ASSAD TALKS OF RECONCILIATION WITH EGYPT  
**TAGS:** PEPR, MPOL, EG, SY, (SADAT, ANWAR), (AL-ASAD, HAFIZ)  
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**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/0c53f2c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
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